

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TRIPOL 01196 01 OF 02 061427Z

44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-01

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-04 SIL-01 LAB-01 /058 W

----- 005333

R 061050Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1674

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT VIA POUCH

AMEMBASSY CAIRO VIA POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 TRIPOLI 1196

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: P I N T L Y

SUBJECT: CRITICISM OF QADHAFI AT ASU CONGRESS

REF: TRIPOLI 1182

SUMMARY: AT LIBYAN PARTH CONGRESS WHERE PROCEEDINGS
ARE BEING BROADCAST, QADHAFI AND HIS DOMESTIC CRITICS
ARE CONFRONTING EACH OTHER. QADHAFI SEEMS UNABLE AT
TIMES TO CONTROL THE MEETING OR GET SUPPORT FOR HIS
PROPOSALS FOR PARTY REORGANIZATION. BEHIND BITTER
CRITICISM OF THE REGIME WHICH IS SURFACING IS ANGER
OVER CHAOS WROUGHT OH QADHAFI'S POPULAR REVOLUTION,
AND A DISPUTE BETWEEN QADHAFI AN
CONSERVATIVE RE-
LIGIOUS AND MERCHANT ELEMENTS OVER TAXES AND BANK
INTEREST. AT VARIOUS TIMES, QADHAFI HAS CALLED LIBYANS
DRUNKARDS, CHALLENGED RIGHT
OF HIS CRITICS TO CALL THEMSELVES ARAB NATIONALISTS,
DEBATED WHETHER LIBYANS SHOULD HAVE RIGHT TO STRIKE
WITH HEAD OF LIBYAN UNIONS, AND ACCUSED CONGRESS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TRIPOL 01196 01 OF 02 061427Z

OF WANTING A DICTATORSHIP IN LIBYA AND OF HAVING

RUINED HIS POPULAR REVOLUTION. AT THESE MOMENTS, QADHAFI HAS LOST CONTROL OF HIMSELF AND THE SITUATION, BUT THERE SEEMS TO BE LITTLE DISPOSITION ON THE PART OF DELEGATES TO CHALLENGE HIM PERSONALLY. END SUMMARY.

1. POPULAR GRUMBLING AND DISCONTENT WHICH HAS BEEN SEETHING IN LIBYA SINCE FAILURE OF QADHAFI'S UNITY PLANS AND HIS CHAOTIC "POPULAR REVOLUTION" IS COMING TO THE SURFACE IN A PUBLIC CONFRONTATION BETWEEN QADHAFI AND HIS DOMESTIC CRITICS. OCCASION IS SECOND ANNUAL ASU CONFERENCE (REFTEL), WHICH ABOUT ONE THOUSAND DELEGATES HAVE COME TO TRIPOLI TO ATTEND. LIKE A TYRANNICAL SCHOOLMASTER WITH AN UNRULY CLASS, QADHAFI HAS BEEN OPENLY INSULTING AND SCORNFUL OF THE GATHERING, AND THEY ARE ANSWERING IN KIND, ALTHOUGH THEY HAVE SO FAR STOPPED JUST SHORT OF ATTACKING HIM PERSONALLY TO

HIS FACE. THEY LISTEN TO HIS ATTACKS ON THEM IN STUNNED AND HURT SILENCE.

2. STARTING POINT FOR MUCH OF DISCUSSION HAS BEEN PLAN QADHAFI PUT BEFORE CONFERENCE FOR REORGANIZATION OF ASU. HE WANTS ITS CONSTITUENT ELEMENTS, WHICH ARE THOSE OF ITS NASSERIST MODEL (FARMERS, WORKERS, INTELLECTUALS) TO BE CHANGED TO A MAKEUP OF HIS OWN DEVICES (-4 "3", ARTISANS, OFFICIALS, ETC). PRACTICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS IS NIL, BUT IT SEEMS TO HAVE SYMBOLIC IMPORTANCE FOR ALL CONCERNED, AS IT IMPLIES THAT QADHAFI HAS IMPROVED ON NASSER HIMSELF. QADHAFI HAS SUGGESTED TO CONFERENCE THAT HE IS TO NASSER AS LENIN WAS TO MARX. QADHAFI'S PLAN SEEMS TO HAVE NO CHANCE OF BEING ADOPTED IF IT IS PUT TO VOTE, BUT QADHAFI SEEMS UNWILLING TO ABANDON IT.

3. OTHER CRITICISM AIMED AT REGIME BY DELEGATES HAS CENTERED AROUND DEBATE WHICH HAD BEEN GOING
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TRIPOL 01196 01 OF 02 061427Z

ON HERE FOR SOME WEEKS, OPPOSING QADHAFI AND MUFTI (MUFTI IS HIGHEST RELIGIOUS AUTHORITY IN LIBYA.) MUFTI HAS PROCLAIMED EX CATHEDRA THAT INTEREST CHARGED BY LIBYAN BANKS IS USURY FORBIDDEN BY ISLAM, AND THAT INCOME TAXES ARE SUPERFLUOUS, FROM ISLAMIC POINT OF VIEW. QADHAFI, IN MOSQUE ADDRESS TO FAITHFUL, HAS COUNTERATTACKED BY CALLING MUFTI A "COUNTER-RE-

VOLUTIONARY", BUT MUFTI SEEM TO HAVE CONSIDERABLE, IF NOT UNANIMOUS, BACKING AMONG ISLAMIC CONSERVATIVES AND MERCHANTS. THERE ARE SIGNS THAT INCOME TAXES WILL BE LOWERED BY GOVERNMENT IN ATTEMPT TO QUIET THE ROW.

4. FOLLOWING IS ACCOUNT OF SOME OF ZANIER MOMENTS IN CONFERENCE HALL DURING FIRST TWO DAYS OF DEBATE:

- SAAD MUJBAR, FORMERLY A CLOSE QADHAFI AIDE, ROSE FROM FLOOR TO SAY THAT DEBATES WERE MISSING THE POINT. FACT WAS ASU HAD NO AUTHORITY, DESPITE ITS CHARTER, AND THIS WAS WELL DEMONSTRATED BY FACT THAT QADHAFI HAD NOT ALLOWED IT TO DEBATE FOREIGN POLICY. HE WARNED THAT QADHAFI MUST LISTEN TO DISSENT, OR HE WOULD ONLY FIND YES-MEN AROUND HIM. QADHAFI ANSWERED HEADEDLY AND SCORNFULLY THAT CONGRESS KNEW NOTHING ABOUT SUCH MATTERS. "WE HAVE EXPERIENCE, RICH EXPERIENCE, THE EXPERIENCE OF FIVE YEARS." WARMING TO HIS THEME, HE ATTACKED CONFERENCE ITSELF: "I CHALLENGE YOU. IF YOU REALLY ARE FOR ARAB UNITY, IF YOU REALLY ARE ARAB NATIONALISTS, THEN WHY AREN'T HALF OF YOUR MEMBERS EGYPTIANS AND TUNISIANS. THEY ARE HALF THE WORK FORCE IN THIS COUNTRY, MORE THAN HALF. LIBYANS ALL DRINK LIQUOR. EVERY YEAR MORE OF YOU TAKE TO DRINK. I HAVE STATISTICS GOING BACK TO THE 1950'S WHICH PROVE THIS". QADHAFI LATER CLAIMED LAMELY THAT HE HAD NOT SAID ALL LIBYANS WERE DRINKERS.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TRIPOL 01196 02 OF 02 061418Z

44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-01

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-04 SIL-01 LAB-01 /058 W

----- 005214

R 061050Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1675
INFO USINT ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT VIA POUCH
AMEMBASSY CAIRO VIA POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 TRIPOLI 1196

- PRESIDENT OF LIBYAN WORKERS UNION CALLED FOR RIGHT TO STRIKE, NOW DENIED BY LIBYA LAW. HE ASKED HOW HE COULD CONDEMN MOROCCO FOR DENYING SYNDICAL FREEDOMS WHEN THERE WAS NO RIGHT TO STRIKE IN LIBYA. HOW COULD HE HOLD UP HIS HEAD IN ARAB TRADE UNION CONGRESSES? QADHAFI REMINDED PRESIDENT THAT HE HAD SUPPORTED THE ANTI-STRIKE LAW WHEN IT WAS FIRST PROPOSED, BUT ALLOWED IT COULD BE REEXAMINED.

- QADHAFI AT ONE POINT DREW A COMPLICATED DIAGRAM ON THE BLACKBOARD ("EVEN YOUR CHALK IS NO GOOD") TO ILLUSTRATE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ASU AND POPULAR COMMITTEES. AFTER A DELEGATE OBJECTED SENSIBLY TO HIM THAT HIS THEORIES WERE FINE, BUT THEY DIDN'T WORK, QADHAFI FLEW INTO ANOTHER RAGE: WHAT YOU WANT IS A DICTATORSHIP. YOU USED TO COMPLAIN ABOUT IRRESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS. DO YOU WANT TO GO BACK TO THE SYSTEM OF APPOINTED OFFICIALS? (CRIES OF YES, YES). THEN YOU ARE GOING IN DIRECTION OF DICTATORSHIP. YOU WANT ME TO NAME AN ARMY OFFICER TO TAKE CHARGE OF EVERY PROVINCE? (APPLAUSE). QADHAFI IN AN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TRIPOL 01196 02 OF 02 061418Z

IRONIC ASIDE TO ASU SECGEN HAWWADI: "GREAT SUPPORT FOR A DICTATORSHIP". QADHAFI TO DELEGATES: "YOU RUINED THE POPULAR REVOLUTION. YOU BROUGHT DOWN YOUR HOUSE WITH YOUR OWN HANDS. YOU FAVORED YOUR TRIBES, MIXED TRIBES AND POLITICS. I WOULD NEVER APPOINT MY TRIBAL BROTHER TO A POST, EVEN THOUGH HE IS OF MY BLOOD."

- QADHAFI BITTERLY QUOTING HITLER, IN A THOUGHTFUL VLICE ALMOST TO HIMSELF. "THERE WAS ONCE A FELLOW NAMED HITLER. HE SAID, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO LEAVE A NATION IN THE HANDS OF FIVE HUNDRED LEGISLATORS".

5. EXAMPLES OF THESE EXCHANGES COULD BE MULTIPLIED, BUT IS IS DIFFICULT FOR A NON-LIBYAN TO KNOW EXACTLY WHAT TO MAKE OF THEM. SOME OF DELEGATES ANGER MAY BE ATTRIBUTABLE TO DAMAGE POPULAR REVOLUTION HAS DONE TO ASU, ORGANIZATION AT LEAST SOME

SEEM TO TAKE SERIOUSLY. QADHAFI'S DISPUTE WITH CONSERVATIVE RELIGIOUS AND MERCHANT FACTIONS ALSO CONTRIBUTES. PERHAPS THIS CHANCE FOR RANK AND FILE OF REVOLUTION TO LET OFF STEAM FACE TO FACE WITH QADHAFI WILL RELIEVE SOME OF POPULAR DISCONTENT WHICH HAS OBVIOUSLY BEEN BUILDING FOR SOME TIME. QADHAFI'S CONDUCT IS HARD TO EXPLAIN, HOWEVER, AT TIMES HE SEEMS RELATIVELY SENSIBLE, ON HIS OWN TERMS; AT OTHER TIMES, AS IN HIS WILD ATTACKS ON LIBYANS IN GENERAL, HE OBVIOUSLY IS NOT EITHER IN CONTROL OF HIMSELF OR OF SITUATION. NEVERTHELESS, WHEN HIS CRITICS COME TO POINT OF CHALLENGING HIM DIRECTLY THEY DRAW BACK, AS HE SEEMS TO KNOW THEY WILL.
STEIN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL PRISONERS, POLITICAL PARTIES, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TRIPOL01196
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740318-0809
From: TRIPOLI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741164/aaaacut.tel
Line Count: 237
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: TRIPOLI 1182
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13-Aug-2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <27 MAR 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CRITICISM OF QADHAFI AT ASU CONGRESS
TAGS: PINT, LY, ASU, (QADHAFI, MU'AMMAR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005